



Drinking Water
Program (DWP)

STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM FOR SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS



A Public Water System (PWS), as part of required emergency response planning per 310 CMR 22.04(13), should develop plans to respond to supply chain issues like shortages of water treatment chemicals and other critical supplies. Below are steps a PWS can take in developing a plan or responding to a disruption.

- 1- Contact** current suppliers and transporters and ask them to take measures to ensure functionality and service.
- 2- Create** a list of other potential suppliers in your area. It's always good to make a connection with them beforehand. PWS can also get help from other related networks/groups in the area to identify alternate suppliers.
- 3- Identify** alternate products or work-around solutions, such as whether another chemical or part can be used and what approvals would be necessary.
- 4- Purchase and store** chemicals and parts whenever possible.
 - Chemicals: Be sure to consider shelf-life issues and date your chemical inventory. Practice safe storage and handling as required by EPA, OSHA, and others. If you use temporary storage, be sure to label it clearly and have the Safety Data Sheet on the container.
 - Parts: Remember to maintain and update an inventory of available parts. Make sure to purchase and keep the spare parts now for all critical treatment equipment.
- 5- Review and update** your operation and emergency response plans, as needed.
- 6- Coordinate** with other PWS in buying consortiums to identify suppliers and manage cost.
- 7- Join** the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network or WARN at [W.A.R.N. | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/warn).
- 8- Utilize** [EPA chemical supplier and manufacturer locator tool](#) to find alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.
- 9- Notify** MassDEP of potential supply chain issues as soon as identified, such as receiving a Force Majeure letter from a chemical supplier. After notifying your regional Drinking Water Program contact or program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Be sure to complete the **MassDEP Drinking Water Program supply chain survey** [here](#).



SCAN HERE
FOR SUPPLY CHAIN SURVEY

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[EPA Chemical Supplier and Manufacturer Locator Tool](#) allows water and wastewater utilities to search for suppliers and manufacturers across the U.S.

[EPA Webpage on Supply Chain Disruptions](#) includes information on issues (availability, pricing, etc) and provides recommendations on responding to shortages and ways to better prepare for them.

